Sub C1

35. (new) A trade finance method for financing the sale of a traded product supplied by a seller to a buyer physically separated from the seller, the method comprising:

a) the buyer providing an event-activated prerelease payment draft to the seller or the seller's agent prior to release of the traded product from the seller's control wherein the event-activated prerelease payment draft:

   i) is payable to the seller's order;

   ii) is drawn on the buyer and is executed by the buyer to indicate the buyer's acceptance of the payment draft; and

   iii) orders a payment, being payment for the traded product, to be made within a term commencing with a specified activating event intended by the buyer and the seller to occur subsequently to execution of the payment draft by the buyer; and

a2 cont

b) the seller releasing the traded product for delivery to the buyer.

36. (new) A method according to claim 35 wherein the prerelease payment draft is also executed by the seller prior to the activating event.

37. (new) A method according to claim 36 wherein the activating event comprises release of the traded product from the seller's control, and wherein the seller releases the traded product subsequently to receipt by the seller of the prerelease payment draft.

38. (new) A method according to claim 36 wherein the prerelease payment draft comprises a transaction window containing transaction identifiers that permit identification of the transaction comprising the sale of the traded product.

39. (new) A method according to claim 38 wherein the transaction window occupies a distinct area on the prerelease payment draft separate from the payment draft characteristics and the transaction identifiers comprise one or more of a seller identification number, a proforma invoice identification number, a credit insurance company's control number, an invoice number, a shipment number, a customs internal tracking number, a buyer identification number and a payment draft descriptor.

a2 Cont

40. (new) A method according to claim 38 wherein the transaction identifiers comprise a seller identification number, a proforma invoice identification number, a credit insurance company's control number, an invoice number, a shipment number, a customs internal tracking number, a buyer identification number and a payment draft descriptor.

41. (new) A method according to claim 36 wherein the prerelease payment draft comprises an electronic file or a paper document printed from an electronic file.

42. (new) A method according to claim 36 wherein the seller is an exporter in one

country, state or region, the buyer is an importer in another country, state or region, the traded product comprises shippable goods and the activating event comprises release of the goods by the exporter-seller for shipment to the buyer-importer.

43. (new) A method according to claim 42 wherein the prerelease payment draft comprises an electronic file, or a paper document printed from an electronic file, and is also executed by the seller prior to the activating event wherein the activating event comprises release of the traded product from the seller's control subsequently to receipt by the seller of the prerelease payment draft and wherein the prerelease payment draft comprises a transaction window visually separate from the payment draft data, the transaction window containing transaction identifiers that permit identification of the transaction comprising the sale of the traded product.

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44. (new) A trade finance method for financing the sale of a traded product supplied by a seller to a buyer physically separated from the seller, the method comprising:

a) the buyer providing an event-activated first bill-of exchange to the seller or the seller's agent prior to release of the traded product from the seller's control wherein the event-activated prerelease first bill-of exchange:

    i) is payable to the seller's order;

    ii) is drawn on the buyer and is executed by the buyer to indicate the buyer's acceptance of the payment draft; and

iii) orders a payment, being payment for the traded product, to be made within a term commencing with a specified activating event intended by the buyer and the seller to occur subsequently to execution of the payment draft by the buyer;

b) the seller releasing the traded product for delivery to the buyer; and

c) the buyer executing a second bill of exchange also satisfying the conditions set forth in clauses a) i)-iii) hereinbefore for the first bill of exchange, prior to receiving the traded product;

wherein the first and second bills of exchange are each designated as being payable if the other bill of exchange remains unpaid so as to be mutually extinguishable.

a2 cont

45. (new) A method according to claim 44 comprising substituting a banker's acceptance for the first bill of exchange.

46. (new) A method according to claim 44 comprising furnishing a pro-forma invoice to the buyer before execution of the first bill of exchange by the buyer wherein the pro-forma invoice comprises information indicia indicative of

a) the identities of the buyer and the seller;

b) the nature of the traded product;

c) a purchase price to be paid by the buyer to the seller as consideration for the traded product, the purchase price having been previously agreed by the buyer

and the seller; and

d) use of the first bill of exchange as a settlement method for the transaction.

47. (new) A method according to claim 46 wherein the pro-forma invoice includes a contractual condition removing merchandise claims or disputes from the payment cycle for resolution in accordance with international convention or treaty or in accordance with prior agreement between the buyer and seller.

48. (new) A method according to claim 39 wherein the pro-forma invoice further comprises information indicia indicative of:

a2 Cont

d) agreement by the buyer to use the first bill of exchange to pay for the purchased product;

49. (new) A method according to claim 48 wherein the trade is an international transaction, the method being wherein the pro-forma invoice further comprises information indicia indicative of:

e) the law applicable to the offer and acceptance cycle and to the underlying trade transaction as being the Vienna Convention on the International Sale of Goods;

50. (new) A method according to claim 44 wherein the seller and the buyer contracting to remove merchandise claims or disputes from the payment cycle for resolution in

accordance with international convention or treaty or in accordance with prior agreement between the buyer and seller.

51. (new) A method according to claim 44 wherein the trade is an international transaction, the method comprising furnishing a pro-forma invoice to the buyer before execution of the first bill of exchange by the buyer wherein the pro-forma invoice comprises information regarding the identities of the buyer and the seller, identification of the traded product and the value of the traded product, wherein the event comprises release of the traded product from the seller's control and wherein at least the first bill of exchange comprises an electronic file.

a2 Cont

52. (new) A method according to claim 44 comprising a purchase agreement signed by the buyer wherein the purchase agreement provides for:

f) agreement by the buyer to use the first bill of exchange, or the first and the second bill of exchange, to pay for the purchased product; and

g) the law applicable to the offer and acceptance cycle and to the underlying trade transaction, in an international transaction, to be the Vienna Convention on the International Sale of Goods; and

h) for the seller and the buyer

53. (new) A method according to claim 46 wherein the first bill of exchange is made

out in the amount of the pro-forma invoice and in that the pro-forma invoice is linked to the first bill of exchange, for use in initiating a draft substitution process.

54. (new) A method according to claim 46 wherein the first bill of exchange is completed and executed by the buyer, for presentation to the buyer for payment at a later date.

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55. (new) A method according to claim 44, being an international trade transaction, the method further comprising a preliminary step, wherein a financial institution capable of accepting a banker's acceptance, or a service intermediary acting on behalf of the financial institution , pre-approves, for the seller, substitution of a banker's acceptance for the first bill of exchange accepted and executed by the buyer.

56. (new) A method according to claim 55 comprising the seller notifying the financial institution or its service intermediary, that the buyer and seller are about to enter into a transaction, at the conclusion of which, the seller will offer to exchange a trade acceptance for a pre-approved banker's acceptance.

57. (new) A method according to claim 56 wherein the transaction advances if the acceptance-providing financial institution approves the buyer and the transaction is aborted if the transaction or the buyer is not pre-approved.

58. (new) A method according to claim 57 wherein, after receiving the approval of the acceptance-issuing institution, the seller releases the traded product to the buyer and wherein such release comprises the activating event initiating the term of the first bill of exchange.

59. (new) A method according to claim 58 wherein, not before release of the traded product to the buyer, the seller sends an invoice for the product along with a second bill of exchange to the buyer's bank.

a2 Cont

60. (new) A method according to claim 59 wherein the second bill of exchange includes unique transaction identifiers and constitutes an order to the buyer to pay on a date certain a sum of money to the account of the acceptance-providing financial institution, under terms and conditions similar to the terms and conditions set forth in the first bill of exchange.

61. (new) A method according to claim 60 further comprising:

i) the buyer's bank holding the buyer-executed second bill of exchange to maturity;

j) at maturity, the buyer's bank debiting the buyer's account and making a remittance to the appropriate party;

k) the seller furnishing to the acceptance-providing financial institution the buyer-accepted first bill of exchange along with evidence of release of the traded

product according to the accepted pro-forma invoice;

l) the acceptance-providing financial institution providing a banker's acceptance having a maturity related to the maturity of the first and second bills of exchange; and

m) upon maturity of the date certain, the acceptance-providing financial institution, being the appropriate party, receives the remittance from the debiting of the buyer's account.

a2 Cont

62. (new) A method according to claim 44 wherein the first bill of exchange is electronically generated and electronically transmitted to the buyer.

63. (new) A method according to claim 51 wherein one or more of the first bill of exchange, the second bill of exchange, the pro-forma invoice and the invoice, is or are electronically generated and electronically transmitted to an intended recipient.

64. (new) A method of financing a sale of a product traded from a seller to a buyer, the method comprising:

a) acceptance by the buyer of a first bill of exchange ordering payment for the traded product to be made by the buyer at a maturity date subsequent to the date of acceptance;

b) delivery of the buyer-accepted first bill of exchange to the seller or the seller's

agent;

c) retention by the seller or the seller's agent of the buyer-accepted first bill of exchange as collateral for payment for the traded product;

c) acceptance by the buyer of a second bill of exchange ordering payment for the traded product to be made at a maturity date no later than the first draft maturity date, wherein the first and second drafts are interdependent in that each draft is payable only if the other draft is unpaid; and

d) presentation of the second bill of exchange to the buyer or the buyer's agent to collect payment for the traded product.

a2 cont

65. (new) A method according to claim 64 wherein the first bill of exchange has a maturity date determined as a fixed period subsequent to an event and the second bill of exchange has the same maturity date as the first bill of exchange and wherein the first and second bill of exchanges are mutually extinguishable, payment of one extinguishing the other.

66. (new) A method according to claim 65 effected by computer-implemented software.

67. (new) A method according to claim 48 wherein the trade is a domestic transaction, the buyer and the seller being located in the same country, state or region, and wherein

the pro-forma invoice further comprises information indicia indicative of:

e) the law applicable to the offer and acceptance cycle and to the underlying trade transaction as being a law of the respective country, state or region.

68. (new) A trade finance method for financing the sale of a traded product supplied by a seller to a buyer geographically removed from the seller, the method comprising:

a) the seller making an offer to the buyer by providing to the buyer:

   i) a pro-forma invoice indicating the identities of the buyer and the seller, the nature of the traded product and an agreed purchase price to be paid by the buyer to the seller for the traded product;

a2 cont

   ii) an event-activated first bill of exchange payable to the seller's order and drawn on the buyer, the first bill of exchange ordering a payment, being payment for the traded product, to be made within a term commencing with a specified activating event intended by the buyer and the seller to occur subsequently to execution of the first bill of exchange by the buyer; and

b) the buyer accepting the offer by executing and accepting both the pro-forma invoice and the first bill of exchange.

69. (new) A method according to claim 68 wherein the pro-forma invoice and the first bill of exchange are separately executed and, subsequently to the activating event, the

seller issues an invoice corresponding with the pro-forma invoice and indicating the date of the activating event, and a second bill of exchange also satisfying the conditions set forth in clause a) ii) of claim 68 for the first bill of exchange.

70. (new) A method according to claim 69 wherein the pro-forma invoice includes:

i) an agreement that the buyer will pay against a sole first or a second bill of exchange to be issued after the activating event; and

ii) a non-recourse agreement to contractually remove trade disputes from the payment cycle.

a2 cont

71. (new) A method according to claim 70 wherein the pro-forma invoice is signed by both the buyer and seller before release of the traded product by the seller.

72. (new) A method according to claim 70 wherein, after the activating event and, if the activating event is not a release of the traded product, after release of the traded product, the seller issues a second bill of exchange and wherein the first and second bills of exchange are each designated on their faces as being payable only if the other bill of exchange remains unpaid, whereby payment of one extinguishes the other.

73. (new) A method according to claim 72 wherein the first bill of exchange, the pro-forma invoice, the invoice and the second bill of exchange are all issued by one of the

seller and the buyer and wherein the issuing party matches common particulars in the documents to ensure coherence of the documents.

74. (new) A method according to claim 73 comprising, prior to the activating event, a financial institution providing a banker's acceptance with respect to the first bill of exchange held as collateral.

a2 Cont

75. (new) A method for trading a product between a seller and a buyer, the method comprising:

a) said buyer executing a pro-forma invoice having indicia indicative of the traded product;

b) said buyer executing a first bill of exchange having indicia indicating the buyer, by acceptance of the first bill of exchange is legally bound to pay for the traded product upon the happening of an event;

c) said buyer sending to said seller said first bill of exchange;

d) said buyer sending to said seller said pro-forma invoice;

e) said seller notifying a financial institution of the receipt by said seller of said buyer-executed first bill of exchange and said buyer-executed pro-forma invoice;

f) said financial institution transmitting to said seller a transaction approval;

g) said seller causing said event to happen;

h) said seller issuing:

i) an invoice enabling the holder of said invoice to obtain said traded product; and

ii) a second bill of exchange having indicia indicating the buyer, by acceptance of the second bill of exchange, is legally bound to pay for the traded product upon execution of said second bill of exchange and the happening of said event;

a2 Cont

i) said second bill of exchange being presented to said buyer, and said buyer executing said second bill of exchange;

j) said executed second bill of exchange being exchanged for said invoice whereby said invoice is in the possession of the buyer;

k) said seller providing said first bill of exchange to said financial institution ; and

l) said financial institution issuing a banker's acceptance obligating said financial institution to pay said seller.

76. (new) A method as claimed in claim 75, wherein said accepted and executed first bill of exchange and said accepted and executed second bill of exchange are mutually extinguishable whereby only one of said first and second bills of exchange is payable.

77. (new) A method as claimed in claim 76, further comprising:

m) said buyer's transaction agent remitting a payment to said financial institution;

and

n) said financial institution paying a payment to the holder of said banker's acceptance;

said payments in clauses m) and n) substantially corresponding with the value of the traded product, subject to appropriate finance discounts.

78. (new) A method as claimed in claim 75, wherein said seller notifies a third party administrator respecting the execution and sending of said first bill of exchange and said pro-forma invoice and wherein the third party administrator manages and monitors the trade finance process.

a2 cont

79. (new) A method as claimed in claim 76, wherein said event is the release of goods or performance of services, said goods or services comprising the traded product..

80. (new) A method as claimed in claim 76, wherein the event which triggers the legal obligation of said buyer is said seller's parting with physical control of said goods or said seller's performing said services.

81. (new) A method for electronically facilitating a trade transaction wherein a traded product moves from a seller to a buyer and wherein the buyer, the seller, a financial institution and a buyer's transaction interface are electronically connectable with an

information transport system, the method comprising:

a) said buyer electronically sending to said seller a second packet or packets of electronic information readable to provide an executed pro-forma invoice having information describing a commercial transaction;

b) said buyer electronically sending to said seller a first packet or packets of electronic information readable to provide an executed first bill of exchange having information purporting to legally bind said buyer upon the happening of an event;

a2 cont

c) said seller sending a notification packet or packets of electronic information to said financial institution regarding the sending of said first and second packet or packets of electronic information;

d) said financial institution transmitting to said seller a packet or packets of electronic information communicating a transaction approval;

e) said seller causing said event to happen;

f) said seller sending to said buyer:

i) a third packet or packets of electronic information readable to provide an invoice enabling said buyer to obtain said traded product; and

ii) a fourth packet or packets of electronic information, said information in said fourth packet or packets being readable to provide a second bill of exchange which by acceptance of an order to pay legally binds the buyer, upon the happening of said event, said first and second bills of exchange

being mutually extinguishable;

g) said transaction information contained in said fourth packet or packets of information being presented to said buyer, and said buyer accepting the terms of said transaction information;

h) said fourth packet or packets of information being electronically updated to include information as to the acceptance of said second bill of exchange by buyer and being sent in exchange for rights associated with said third packet or packets of electronic information;

i) said seller electronically transmitting said first packet or packets of information to said financial institution ; and

a2 cont

j) said financial institution transmitting a fifth packet or packets of electronic information readable to provide a document comprising an order to pay obligating said financial institution to pay said seller.

82. (new) A financial instrument comprising an electronic, printed or written bill of exchange document the bill of exchange document being executed by a buyer and payable to a seller and evidencing willingness of the buyer to pay the seller a sum certain of money at a future time wherein the bill of exchange document is an event-activated bill of exchange document, the future time being determined by expiry of a term running from a pre-specified activating event occurring after buyer-execution of the bill of exchange document, the term and the activating event being recited in the bill

of exchange , as executed by the buyer.

83. (new) A financial instrument according to claim 82 wherein the bill of exchange is executed by the seller and comprises a transaction window for transaction identifiers that permit identification of the transaction.

84. (new) A combination of financial instruments comprising two financial instruments according to claim 83, the two instruments being respectively designated a first and a second bill of exchange wherein the first bill of exchange is payable only while the second bill of exchange is unpaid and the second bill of exchange is payable only while the first bill of exchange is unpaid whereby the first and second bills of exchange are mutually extinguishable.

a2 Cont

85. (new) A combination of financial instruments according to claim 84 wherein the second of exchange is executed after occurrence of the activating event and recites the actual date of the activating event.

86. (new) A combination of financial instruments according to claim 84 further comprising an electronic, printed or written pro-forma invoice describing a product to be traded from a buyer to a seller in a trade transaction and reciting terms of agreement relating to the trade transaction, the terms of agreement including agreement by the

buyer to execute said bill of exchange to order payment for the traded product and agreement by the buyer and the seller to remove merchandise claims or disputes from the payment cycle for resolution in accordance with, contract, international convention or treaty, said pro-forma invoice having provision to receive the buyer's signature or electronic authorization and the seller's signature or electronic authorization.

87. (new) A combination of financial instruments according to claim 86 wherein the pro-forma invoice is executed by the buyer and by the seller, indicating agreement of the buyer and seller to the terms set forth therein.

a2 cont

88. (new) Computer-readable media storing a trade finance software program for facilitating performance of a method according to claim 64 said trade finance program being capable of generating one or more of the first bill of exchange, the second bill of exchange, the pro-forma invoice, and the invoice.

89. (new) Computer storage media storing a trade finance software program wherein the trade finance software program has a user-selectable feature for generating a displayable and/or printable financial instrument according to claim 82 as an editable form or forms to which transaction-specific data can be added by a user.

90. (new) Computer storage media according to claim 89 wherein the trade finance